

national centre for circus arts

Job Description

Role:	National Centre for Circus Arts Assistant Teacher
Contact Support:	Head of Learning and Access Head of Programming and Sector Development Programme Managers
Hours:	Variable scheduled hours
Pay rate:	£14.28 per hour
Holiday Entitlement:	30 days holiday per annum, pro rata, inclusive of the eight statutory bank holiday and rising 1 day per annum up to a maximum of 35 days. You are expected to take your holiday outside of the academic term
Key information:	Assistant teachers are expected to make a commitment to the programme and ensure that they are available for the times they are scheduled for within a given academic term. All Assistants will have to undertake a DBS check that will be kept on file at the National Centre for Circus Arts. Majority of work available for assistants is across evenings and/or weekends; please only apply if you're available to commit to hours during these times. This role is available to those aged 18+ from the 1 st September 2026.

ABOUT NATIONAL CENTRE FOR CIRCUS ARTS

The National Centre for Circus Arts is a registered charity and an independent Higher Education provider registered with the Office for Students, and is one of Europe's leading providers of circus arts training. For the past 30 years, we have provided emerging and professional circus artists, directors and choreographers access to vital space and support to train, experiment and share ideas.

Our diverse range of work includes BA degree-level education in Circus Arts which is supported at either side by a structured training programme for under-18s and professional development opportunities for aspiring and established performers. Our Outreach work spans all ages and abilities as we engage with schools and community groups to deliver educational experiences and workshops. Adults and young people can enjoy recreational classes and occasional performances. Our national role increasingly sees us supporting and mentoring circus artists and organisations nationwide as we seek to develop and mature our remarkable art form. We also run high-profile corporate events and hires to further increase our revenue.

OVERALL PURPOSE OF THE ROLE

To assist our teachers in delivering circus arts training across multiple programmes. This is a practical job, which includes working directly with participants in a class environment under the guidance of our teachers. Successful candidates will demonstrate a passion for circus and an interest in developing this into best teaching practice.

This role is an opportunity to gain greater understanding of teaching and learning at a range of ages and stages. It is best suited to those with some but not much teaching experience and who want to develop their teaching abilities. Majority of work will be on Saturday/Sundays and weekday evenings working with all ages from 3 – 18+ years old. As your contract evolves, you'll have the opportunity to work across all class types including our outreach and youth development programmes.

If you are applying for this role, you must be comfortable teaching across different age groups and be able to commit to working weekends.

For the appropriate candidates, we use the role to mentor them to become full teachers on all our programme areas. While previous Assistants have progressed into teaching roles in the Learning & Participation (L&P) and Recreational programmes, please note each assistant is different and therefore this not a guaranteed outcome of the role.

Responsibilities

- Assist the L&P and Recreational teaching teams in the delivery of their classes.
 - Assisting teachers during classes (for example relay their instructions to participants)
 - Assist teachers in managing student behaviour
 - Studio space set up and pack down
 - Input into class planning
- Ensure that participants are training in a safe manner and environment.
- Attend relevant L&P and Recreational Programme meetings.
- Abide by and promote the National Centre for Circus Arts policies, including the Safeguarding and the Health & Safety Policies.
- Take a proactive approach to your own professional development.
- Perform such other duties as may reasonably be requested.

Personal Specification

Skills

- Regular training in at least one circus discipline
- Have a good knowledge of risks involved in teaching circus
- Good interpersonal skills with an ability to communicate effectively to a wide range of people including children, parents /carers, adult students and teachers
- Ability to remain calm and respond to unexpected situations professionally at all times

Experience

- Basic experience in a circus teaching and learning environment
- Working co-operatively with others as part of a team
- Experience of basic Safeguarding practice and how that is applied in a learning environment

Personal Attributes

- An interest in teaching circus arts for all ages and wider performing arts education

How to apply to apply

Please complete the online application form, where you will upload a CV and be asked to write a response to these three questions.

Please also complete our equal opportunities form

Questions for Application

Please note that there is a 1,000-character limit for each question.

1. Classroom and Studio Support

Describe a time when you assisted a teacher during a class. How did you ensure the instructions were clearly relayed to participants?

2. Collaboration

Describe a time when you worked as part of a team (this can be in a circus session or separate example in another job role). What was your role?

3. Studio set up

How would you set up and pack down a studio space efficiently and safely?